USSR Minister of Defense

    Marshal Malinovskiy succeeded G. K. Zhukov as
USSR Minister of Defense in October 1957. Before
this appointment, he had served for a year as Com-
mander-in-Chief of Ground Forces and First Deputy
Minister of Defense. Following World War II,
Malinovskiy spent 10 years in the Far East as com-
mander of Soviet forces and, during the Korean War,
was closely associated with Chinese Communist and
North Korean military operations. A member of the
Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) since
1926, he was elected a candidate member of the CPSU
Central Committee in 1952 and, since 1956, has been a full member.

    Born into a peasant family in Odessa, Ukrainian SSR, on 23 November
1898, Malinovskiy attended elementary school until he was 12 and then
worked as a farm laborer and messenger. Only 15 years old when World War
I began, he managed to get to the front and, within 15 months, had become
a machine gunner. He was wounded, promoted to corporal, and transferred
to France with a Russian expeditionary corps. With the outbreak of the
Bol'shevik Revolution he became involved in revolutionary activities at
the front and was imprisoned--at least two sources have stated that he
was arrested and detained in French custody in North Africa. He later
returned to active duty and served in France until after the armistice.
In August 1919 he returned to the Soviet Union via Vladivostok and en-
listed in the Red Army; for the remainder of the Civil War he served in
the Far East where he saw action against the White Army of Admiral
Kolchak. At a later date he was reportedly investigated and almost liq-
uidated by the Cheka, the inquiries of which were being directed by N. A.
Bulganin.

    Malinovskiy graduated from the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze
in 1930. During the next decade he served successively as Chief of Staff
and later Commander of the Second Cavalry Division, as a member of the
Operations Department of the Red Army General Staff for four years, and
as a cavalry corps commander in Bessarabia.

    Malinovskiy was a major general when the Germans invaded the Soviet
Union in June 1941; he was promoted to lieutenant general later that year.
At the battle of Stalingrad the Second Guards Army, which he commanded,
checked a German attempt to relieve von Paulus' besieged forces. Lieuten-
ant General N. S. Khrushchev was senior political advisor and a member of
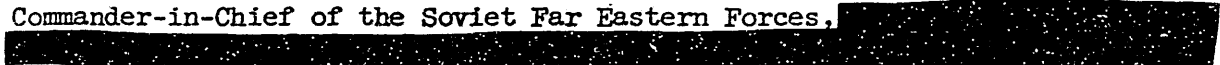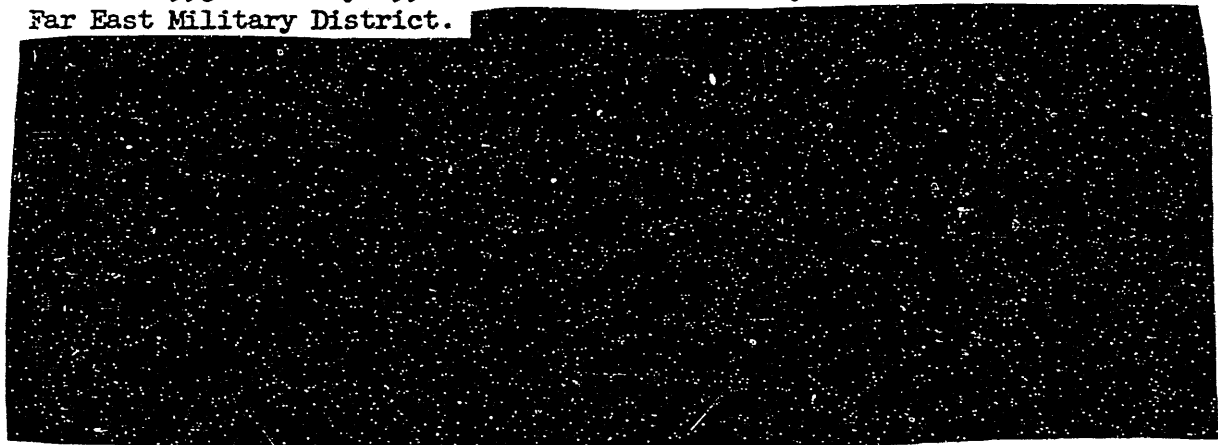the military council on the Stalingrad Front; the over-all Soviet commander

of the front was Marshal G. K. Zhukov.   In 1943 Malinovskiy was promoted
to colonel general and placed in command of the Southern Front; a few
months later he received the rank of general of the army.   He next com-
manded the Southwest Front which became the Third Ukrainian Front; he
assumed command of the Second Ukrainian Front in May 1944, and his forces
played a prominent role in the campaigns in Hungary, Rumania, and Czech-
oslovakia.   In September 1944, the month in which he was named Marshal of
the Soviet Union, he signed the armistice agreement with Rumania on behalf
of the Allies, and, in April 1945, was identified as Chairman of the Allied
Control Commission for that country.

In August 1945 Malinovskiy was given command of the Transbaykal
Front, which was instrumental in the liquidation of the Japanese Army in
Manchuria.   He remained in the Far East, becoming Commander of the Trans-
baykal-Amur Military District in 1946.   The following year he was named
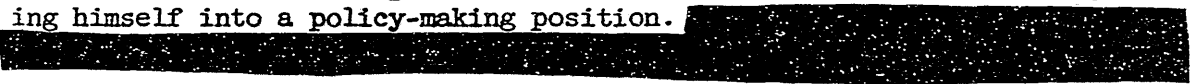Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Far Eastern Forces,

in late 1953 or early 1954 he succeeded N. I. Krylov as Commander of the
Far East Military District.

Malinovskiy succeeded Marshal I. S. Konev as Commander-in-Chief of
Ground Forces and First Deputy Minister of Defense in March 1956; in this
capacity he was the fourth ranking military official in the Soviet Union.
In October 1957 he was selected over Marshals Konev and V. D. Sokolovskiy
to succeed Zhukov as Minister of Defense.

Malinovskiy
had been isolated from political factional disputes during his tour in the
Far East and could be expected to follow Party directions without inject-
ing himself into a policy-making position.

Since becoming Minister of Defense, Malinovskiy has traveled exten-
sively inside and outside the Soviet Bloc. He was in Communist China in
July and August 1958 (both before and during Khrushchev's visit) as head
of a military delegation. In May 1960 he accompanied Khrushchev to the
Summit Conference in Paris. He has visited East Germany on several
occasions since 1958 and has led delegations to Austria, Finland, Morocco,
and Indonesia.